

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05054 141803Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00
ACDA-07 SS-15 A-01 USSS-00 NSC-05 IO-13 L-03 H-01
PM-04 DHA-02 /097 W
-----054955 150101Z /62

R 141734Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2775
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMCONSUL BELIZE
PANCANAL
USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 5054

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PN
SUBJECT: BRITISH AMBASSADOR RECEIVES KIDNAP THREAT

1. THE BRITISH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN PANAMA, MICHAEL JACKSON, HAS CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS CIRCULATING HERE THAT THE BRITISH EMBASSY RECEIVED A TELEPHONE THREAT ON JULY TO KIDNAP AMBASSADOR ROBERT JOHN. ACCORDING TO JACKSON, A MALE CALLER IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE "GUATEMALAN NATIONALIST COMMAND" TOLD HIM THAT THE GROUP HAD VISITED THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE THE NIGHT OF JULY 7 WITH THE INTENTION OF KIDNAPPING AMBASSADOR JOHN, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED TO MERELY ISSUE A WARNING. DURING THE VISIT, THE WALLS OF THE RESIDENCE WERE PAINTED WITH THE WORDS "AGGRESSOR" AND "VIVA A GUATEMALAN BELIZE".

2. STORY BROKE IN THE LOCAL PRESS JULY 12 WITH A HEADLINE ARTICLE IN "LA REPUBLICA" THAT QUOTED A BRITISH EMBASSY SPOKESMAN AS LINKING THE THREAT TO THE HEIGHTENED TENSIONS ALONG THE BELIZE-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 05054 141803Z

GUATEMALA FRONTIER. SPOKESMAN FELT THAT THE THREAT OF FURTHER ACTION BY THE "GUATEMALAN NATIONALIST COMMAND", IF INDEED SUCH A GROUP EXISTS, WOULD DIMINISH NOW THAT "POSITIVE TALKS ON BELIZE HAVE BEEN HELD IN WASHINGTON." A FRONT PAGE STORY IN THE "STAR AND HERALD" ON JULY 13 SUMMARIZED THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE INCIDENT ISSUED BY JACKSON.

3. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED "MATUTINO" TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE THREAT TO REPEAT ITS WARNINGS THAT THE GUATEMALAN CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS "MANO BLANCO" MIGHT CONDUCT A COORDINATED TERRORIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST GREAT BRITAIN, BELIZE, AND PANAMA BECAUSE OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR BELIZE'S INDEPENDENCE. IN A JULY 13 FRONT PAGE ITEM, PAPER POINTS OUT THAT ITS "BITACORA" COLUMN FOR JUNE 15 HAD URGED THE PANAMANAIN AUTHORITIES TO REDOUBLE THEIR VIGILANCE IN GUARDING AGAINST GUATEMALAN TERRORIST ATTACKS ON OFFICIALS IN PANAMA. "CRITICA" EDITORIAL FOR JULY 14 DECLARES THAT PANAMA'S SUPPORT FOR BELIZE'S "RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION" WILL NOT BE DETERRED BY SUCH TERRORIST ACTS.

4. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR JOHN DEPARTED PANAMA ON HOME LEAVE IN MAY AND IS EXPECTED TO RETURN SOMETIME IN SEPTEMBER.
GONZALEZ

NOTE BY OC/T: #SENTENCE AS RECEIVED.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, AMBASSADORS, THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA05054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770251-0960
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770757/aaaabxns.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2481566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1861544
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH AMBASSADOR RECEIVES KIDNAP THREAT
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, PN, UK, GT, (JOHN, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2481566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009